

## Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 /093 W

----- 071421

R 071652Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1244

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS MADRID 1585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, PN

SUBJ: COMMENTS BY PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT LAKAS

1. IN WHAT WAS CHARACTERIZED AS STRICTLY "PRIVATE" STOPOVER IN MADRID EN ROUTE HOME AFTER A MONTH IN EUROPE, PRESS REPORTED FOLLOWING COMMENTS OF INTEREST BY PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT DEMETRIO B. LAKAS IN COURSE OF INTERVIEW.

2. REGARDING US-PANAMANIAN CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, LAKAS SAID, "WE HOPE RESULTS WILL BE POSITIVE, IF WE DID NOT, IT WOULD NOT BE WORTH TROUBLE GOING TO NEGOTIATION TABLE. WE ARE ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE WITH US BECAUSE WE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE NO NECESSITY FOR RECOURSE TO ANYTHING OTHER THAN FRIENDLY AGREEMENT. OUR ASPIRATION IS THAT FINAL AGREEMENT WILL SIGNIFY JUST THAT AND AS GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS PROMISED, ALSO THE RECOVERY OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THIS PART OF OUR TERRITORY, WITH END OF COLONIALISM ON THIS STRIP, BY MEANS OF TREATY WHICH CAN COUNT ON COMPLETE APPROVAL OF ALL PANAMANIAN PEOPLE."

3. REGARDING HIS RELATIONS WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS, LAKAS COMMENTED THAT TORRIJOS "IS LIKE A BROTHER TO ME, AND I  
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FOLLOW HIM WITH ALL LOYALTY AND FEELING THAT ONE BROTHER

CAN HAVE FOR ANOTHER."

4. REGARDING CUBA'S RETURN TO OAS, LAKAS STATED, "THIS ASPECT OF FOREIGN POLICY IS THE PROVINCE OF GENERAL TORRIJOS. HE IS THE ONE WHO CAN SPEAK ABOUT OUR POSTURE. I AM UNABLE TO SAY ANYTHING NOW, SINCE I HAVE BEEN OUT OF COUNTRY FOR ALMOST A MONTH."

5. REGARDING POSSIBILITY THAT SEAT OF OAS MIGHT BE RELOCATED TO PANAMA, LAKAS SAID, "PANAMA IS HOSPITABLE TO EVERYONE WITHOUT DISTINCTION. IF IN FUTURE OUR CAPITAL IS CHOSEN AS SEAT OF OAS, PANAMA WOULD WELCOME DECISION WITH GREATEST PLEASURE. WHAT IS MORE, THIS WOULD BE A FINE IDEA, A HAPPY REALIZATION OF IDEA OF SIMON BOLIVAR."

6. LAKAS HAS NO OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH GOS OTHER THAN AIRPORT GREETING BY FONMIN CORTINA.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 29 MAY 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMENTS BY PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT LAKAS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SP, PN, (LAKAS, DEMETRIO B)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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